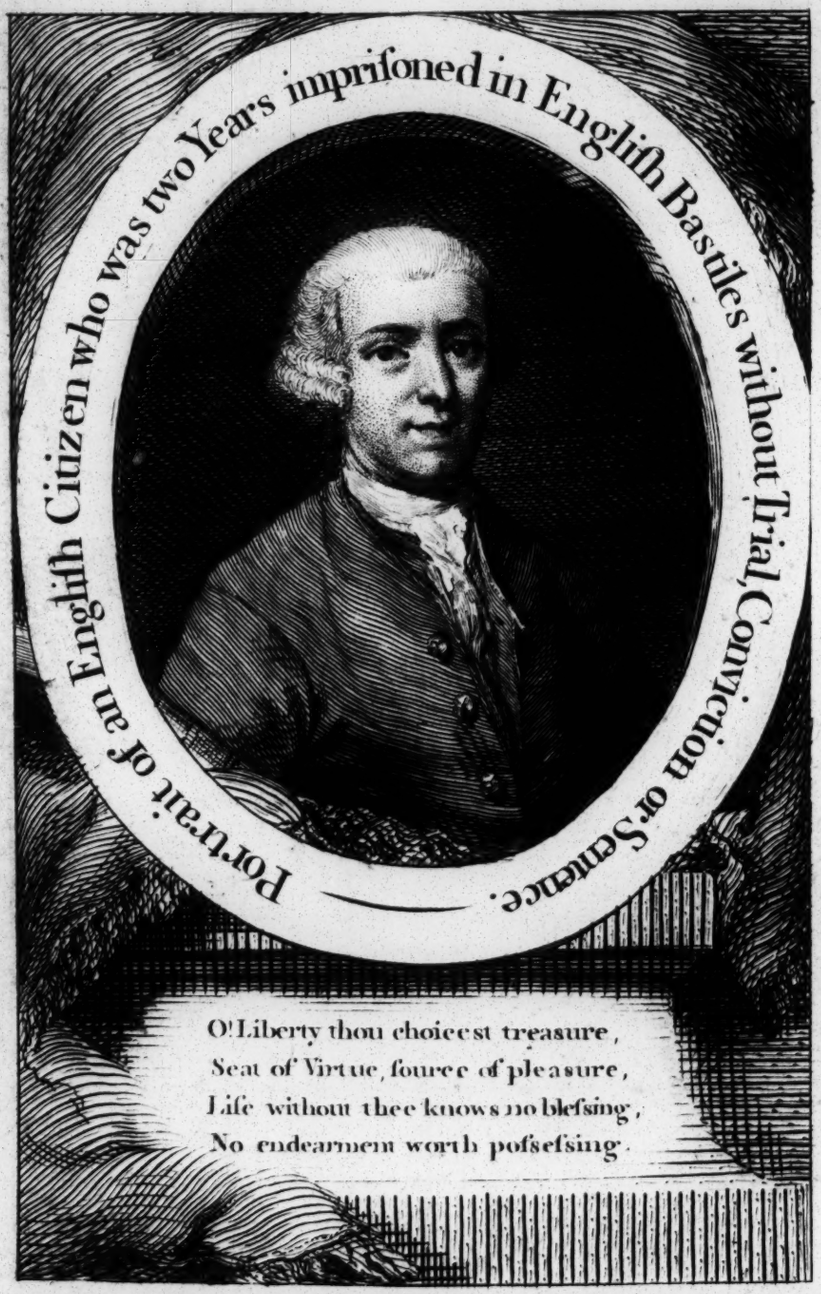


*Drawn, in the* Prison *of L. Mansfields High Commission Court of Star Chamber, 1763. J. Miller Scul.*

*King's-Bench Priſon, Sept. 1, 1769.*

# WILLIAM BINGLEY, Bookseller,

Propoſes to Publish, in

## TWENTY-FOUR WEEKLY NUMBERS,

AT SIX PENCE EACH,

## THE FIRST FORTY-SIX NUMBERS

OF THE

# ORIGINAL NORTH BRITON.

With ſeveral Uſeful and Explanatory Notes, not printed in any FORMER EDITION.

To which is added, by way of

# APPENDIX,

The Public and Private Correſpondence between

John Wilkes, Eſq; and the Duke of Grafton; the Earls Temple, Talbot, Halifax, and Egremont; Mr. H. Coates; Doctors Brockleſby and Hebberden; Sir Wm. Lee, Sir John Cuſt, &c. &c. &c. Mr. Wilkes's Letter to the King for a Pardon; and alſo his genuine Letter to the Electors of Ayleſbury, ſome Parts of which were never before publiſhed in England. Obſervations on the Papers relative to the Rupture with Spain laid before both Houſes of Parliament, by the ſame Gentleman. Dedication prefixed to the Fall of Mortimer, a Tragedy, to the Earl of Bute. Animadverſions on Sir John Cuſt's Speech to the Ten Oxford Gentlemen, with the Speech annexed. Authentic Papers relative to a moſt horrid Maſſacre in St. George's-Fields, on the 10th of May, 1768. Notes on ſome Paſſages of the late Mr. Churchill's Works.—With a faithful Collection of Mr. Wilkes's other Tracts and Papers, from the Year 1762 to the preſent Time; comprehending a complete View of all the extraordinary Proceedings of Adminiſtration againſt that Gentleman.

N. B. The Deſign of this Undertaking is to accommodate the Public with an Edition in Folio of this valuable Work, particularly thoſe of Mr. Bingley's Friends who have conſtantly taken in his Weekly Continuation.

The Firſt Number, containing Three Sheets, will be publiſhed on Saturday the 16th Inſtant September, and continue regularly till the Whole is compleated.

The Work is intirely finiſhed, and may be had in Boards, Price 13s. half-bound, 14s. bound in Calf, and lettered, 15s. or in Weekly Numbers, as above propoſed.

The Nobility, Gentry, &c. &c, who are pleaſed to honour the Publiſher with their Subſcriptions, are humbly requeſted to favour him with their Addreſs, directed to him either in the King's-Bench Priſon, or at his Shop, N° 31, Newgate-ſtreet. Sold alſo by all the Bookſellers, Stationers, and News-Carriers in Town and Country.

# TO THE PUBLIC.

CUT off, as I have long been,—by my illegal imprisonment in this place,—from all possibility of following my own business as a bookseller, I thought I could not employ my time more agreeably to myself, or more usefully to the public, than by collecting, and digesting into proper order, the papers relating to the prosecution carried on for many years against Mr. Wilkes; which I offer with all due respect to the courteous reader.

To the collecting of these papers, and to the printing a large edition of the *Original North Briton*, I was strongly determined by several motives. The first was, that many gentlemen, who constantly subscribe to the *weekly Continuation* of the *North Briton*,—begun by me about sixteen months ago—frequently expressed an earnest desire to have a folio edition of the *Original North Briton*, so as to bind up with the said *Continuation*; the rather, as I could not print a small edition of the *Continuation*, without furnishing the tools of the ministry with a plausible pretext, for letting loose upon me, once more, the blood-hounds of the law, and subjecting myself, not simply to *two*, but to *four* Lord Mansfield's mild attachments,—as that *conscientious* and *merciful* old gentleman is pleased to term them.——

I considered, in the next place, that the small edition of the *Original North Briton*, was commonly sold at so exorbitant a price, that what was intrinsically worth no more than SIX SHILLINGS, could not be purchased for less than a GUINEA AND A HALF, and even sometimes TWO GUINEAS: so scandalously, in this instance, have some people dared to impose upon the public!

It occurred to me,—in the third place—that though the *North Briton* had been tolerably well circulated through most parts of the kingdom, yet the extraordinary circumstances which followed the publication of No. 45, were not, by any means, sufficiently known. And indeed how could they? as no accurate and authentic account has hitherto been given of these singular transactions. For in all the accounts that have been pretended to be given of them, the proceedings of the House of Commons against Mr. *Wilkes*, as the supposed author of the North Briton, No. 45, are entirely omitted; and many of that gentleman's papers on the subject, are, either through the carelessness or cowardice of the compiler, so shamefully mutilated, that a like injury is done to the Author and to the Reader. The sense of the former is greatly obscured, and the latter is disappointed of that information, which the title of the *pamphlet*, &c. led him to expect.

In the fourth place, I flattered myself, that the profits arising from the sale of this work would enable me the better to support a large family, now unhappily deprived of my assistance, and contribute at the same time to defray the great expences attending a most tedious and cruel prosecution.

But there is a fifth motive, which weighed more with me than any of the foregoing. I imagined, that, while employed in collecting these papers, I was acting, in every sense, most strictly in character. For I cannot help considering myself as a person embarked in the cause of *Public Liberty*; and that the world views me in the same light, the approbation I have received for my steady opposition to the arbitrary acts of Star-chamber judges, is at once a pleasing and an irrefragable proof. Never was there, during the reign of King George the First or King George the Second, or even during that of Queen Anne or King William, so daring a violation of the laws of the land, as has been committed in my person in the reign of King George the Third.

I do not even except *general warrants*,—which have by the court of Common Pleas, and also by the House of Commons, been solemnly judged illegal;—for, in this case the subject sues out his Habeas, and is admitted to bail till trial, unless evaded, as Lord Halifax did in the case of Mr. *Wilkes*; but in my case, the Habeas Corpus act is of no more force, than if such a law had never passed. In the beginning of the prosecution against me, the crown lawyers were mere novices in tyranny. First, they committed me till I was *discharged according to law*, [*the law of England*] and when the *law of England* was satisfied, and I was TWICE set at liberty, they discovered a mistake in the copy of my former commitment, and in order to punish me unheard—had recourse to the laws and customs of *Spain*, which they have ever since most faithfully imitated. But how long the judges, servants, and other dependents of the crown, will be allowed to trifle with the laws of this country in the manner they have done during the present reign, is more than I or any one can tell. But, lest I should be guilty of the same kind of *egotism* with the Bishop of Gloucester, who, in his preface to Pope's works, talks more of himself than of his author, I shall conclude, by observing, that I have endeavoured, to the best of my abilities, to give a more full and faithful account of the extraordinary proceedings against Mr. *Wilkes*, than any that has yet been offered to the public; how far I have succeeded in my endeavours, I leave the impartial reader to determine.

*King's-Bench Prison,*
*Sept. 1, 1769.*

W. BINGLEY.